

Deer Creek Power Plant Operators:

Floyd Witt
Frank Severnson
Glen Hoover
Harold Ford
Charles Murdock
Frank Greenwood
Oliver Edwards
Ferris Hoover ("Fare")
Bert Hoover
Conrad Bass
Libby Cartwright
Karl Pratt
BOR
Now part of SLCC Metropolitan Water Co.

994

HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

forced many from their homes, put many hundreds of acres of choice lands under water and brought decline to the community.

For some years the industrial leaders of Utah and the nation had realized the value of a reservoir along Provo River. The growth of Utah's major industrial centers, including Salt Lake City and Provo, created a vast need for water storage and new hydro-electric projects.

Thus, in 1938 work began on a reservoir in the lower part of Wasatch County, known as the Deer Creek project. Three years were required to complete the dam, which held back the water that began to inundate Charleston.

Even though Charleston's landscape has changed considerably over the years, the people have not changed. As the waters began to rise behind the dam, many were forced to move their homes to other areas. However, those who remained have held fast to the fundamental virtues of courage and integrity that have played so great a part in shaping the lives of men.

As far as can be determined, the first two white men to camp in the area of Charleston were Charles Shelton and his brother-in-law, Alex Wilkins. They were surveyors from Provo, and came into the valley to lay out some of the property.

The first settlers to take up land claims in Charleston were George Noakes, William Manning and Mr. Manning's son, Freeman, who were all from Provo. They came in the spring of 1859 and put in a limited crop of grain, but lost the entire crop through frost. William Manning built a log house and corral on his land, which was Charleston's first permanent building. During the winter of 1859-60, Mr. Manning wintered some stock on his ranch.

Others were soon attracted to the Charleston area and began to take up land for homes and farms. Ephraim K. Hanks, an able assistant to President Brigham Young in the pioneer trek of 1847 brought his family to Charleston to settle. Mr. Hanks, noted as a scout and peace-maker among the Indians, was also instrumental in saving the Martin Handcart Company from starvation in the snows of Wyoming.

Early in 1860 John S. McAfee and his family arrived from Scotland and began settling some of the lands near Mr. Hanks. Others who claimed farm land in the Charleston area were John Ritchie, Nymphas C. Murdock, William Wright, Lewis Mecham, Enoch Richins, George W. Brown, John Brown and William Bagley.